(vi) There should be no requirement for change of the receiving set, irrespective of whether the consumer chooses to watch "Free-to-Air" channels and/or 'Pay' channels.

(c) and (d) The recommendations of the Task Force have, generally been accepted by the Government and amendment to the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 is under consideration.

DTH digital satellite broadcasting service

4877. DR. T. SUBBA RAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Radio will be launching its Direct-To-Home digital satellite broadcasting service;

(b) if so, whether the 24 hour satellite broadcast channel will beam programmes to the Indian sub-continent as also to the entire South-East Asian Region;

(c) if so, to what extent the new technology will improve audio quality; and

(d) to what extent this decision will help larger area to be brought under the broadcasting net?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) All India Radio has launched its Direct-to-Home digital satellite broadcasting service *w.e.f.* 27th February, 2002. The 24 hour satellite broadcast channel is currently beaming programmes to Indian sub continent as also to the entire South East Asian region through Asia Star satellite.

(c) and (d) The new technology gives improved audio quality uniformly over the entire coverage area and has helped AIR to cover the whole country in satellite mode.

National Film Awards

4878. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that last year the Jury for the 48th Film Awards had